

NEW YORK HERALD.

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EDITOR AND PROPRIETOR.

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Volume XXVII. No. 70

AMUSEMENTS THIS EVENING.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC, Irving Place.—ITALIAN OPERA.—MARTHA.

WINTER GARDEN, Broadway.—THE BELL OF THE SEASON.—PASCAL AND HIS GARDEN.

WALLACE'S THEATRE, No. 84 Broadway.—THE LOVE OF A KING.

LAURA KEEFE'S THEATRE, Broadway.—THE MARRIAGE OF FIGARO.

NEW BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery.—GERMANY OF THE FUTURE.—THE FUTURE OF THE FUTURE.

BOWERY THEATRE, Bowery.—STREET'S NATIONAL.

MARY PROCTOR'S THEATRE, 438 Broadway.—RICHARD III.

BARNEY'S AMERICAN MUSICAL, Broadway.—COMING LIVING.—HAPPYLAND, 438 Broadway.

BRAYTON'S MINSTRELS, Mechanical Hall, 472 Broadway.—DOWN IN OLD ENGLAND.

HOOVER'S MINSTRELS, Shattuck Institute, No. 43 Broadway.—ETHIOPIAN SONGS, DANCES, &c.

MELODION CONCERT HALL, 539 Broadway.—SONGS, DANCES, MELODIES, &c.—CONTRABAND CONVENTION.

CANTERBURY MUSIC HALL, 539 Broadway.—SONGS, DANCES, &c.—CONTRABAND CONVENTION.

GAIETIES CONCERT ROOM, 616 Broadway.—DRAWING ROOM ENTERTAINMENTS, DANCES, PASTORALS, &c.

AMERICAN MUSIC HALL, 434 Broadway.—JALOUZ DANCE.—FALGOUT.—OLIVIER.—JOLY MILLERS.

CRYSTAL PALACE CONCERT, No. 43 Bowery.—SONGS, DANCES, &c.—CONTRABAND CONVENTION.

PARISIAN CABINET OF WONDERS, 663 Broadway.—OPEN ONLY ON WEDNESDAY AND FRIDAY.

NOVELTY MUSIC HALL, 616 Broadway.—SONGS, DANCES, &c.

New York, Friday, March 21, 1862.

THE SITUATION.

The fine weather which has favored the locality of Gen. McClellan's department was taken advantage of yesterday for dress parades and reviews of the different divisions. The Commanding General reviewed Gen. Franklin's division in person. The men were in splendid condition, and their appearance was highly commended by Gen. McClellan.

The evacuation of Aquia creek by the rebels is fully confirmed. They had a force of two thousand men there, but all have gone southward, destroying the wharves, the railroad station and a portion of the track in their retreat.

Island No. 10 appears still to hold out obstinately against the attack of our troops, although at latest accounts it stood but a poor chance of escaping capture. Commander Foote says that it is harder to conquer than Columbus, as the island shores are lined with forts, each fort commanding the one above it; but he says that he is gradually approaching the island, and that he is firing night and day on the rebels. One shell was landed on their floating battery and cleared that in a short time.

The latest news from there last night says that the enemy are completely surrounded, and have no chance of escape except by fighting their way out, their gunboats being hemmed in between Commodore Foote's fleet and General Pope's batteries. They made a desperate attempt to escape down the river, but were driven back by General Pope's batteries.

The rebel chiefs are using their utmost efforts to fortify the Mississippi, as will be seen by the orders of General Beauregard and the Governors of Louisiana and Mississippi, which we publish to-day, calling for more troops. Beauregard will be glad to get ninety day volunteers to strengthen his army of the Mississippi Department.

Our maps to-day, of the battle of Pea Ridge, Arkansas, will be found very useful in comparing the incidents of that brilliant action, as detailed so graphically in Wednesday's HERALD, by our special correspondent. The rebels have vanished from Northern Arkansas almost entirely. Straggling bands of marauders and a portion of Albert Pike's Indians alone are to be found there, and they are committing depredations on friends and foes alike.

The Union sentiment in Tennessee is manifesting itself in a very potent fashion, since the recent successes have convinced the inhabitants of that State that the United States government is their best friend and surest safeguard. A large body of the citizens of Gallatin (a town notoriously disloyal heretofore) met in public meeting recently and adopted a platform for the establishment of a post office in that place. A general feeling to return cheerfully to their allegiance pervades the people of Tennessee. We publish to-day the honest and manly address of Andrew Johnson, the recently appointed provisional Governor of the State, to his fellow citizens of Tennessee.

General Garfield had a brilliant and successful skirmish with the rebels in Eastern Kentucky a few days ago. The rebels, it appears, were encamped 500 strong on the Cumberland Mountains, at Pound Gap, forty miles beyond Pickett. General Garfield advanced his infantry along the mountain path, and sent his cavalry by the main road. The latter made an attack on the enemy in front, while the infantry took them in the rear, moving along the ridge of the mountain, and after a fight of about twenty minutes the rebels fled, leaving their camp equipment behind them. General Garfield pursued them six miles into Virginia. No one was killed on our side.

Some interesting despatches were received at Washington yesterday from Kansas City, relative to the late action near Fort Craig, New Mexico. The rebels, it appears, were contemplating an attack on Fort Union, but our troops were anticipating them by reinforcing the place. Colonel Canby was still at Fort Craig.

CONGRESS.

In the Senate yesterday, a communication was received from the Secretary of the Navy replying to the resolution asking why the Naval Academy was removed from Annapolis to Newport, R. I. A petition was presented from citizens of New York asking for amelioration of the condition of the Indians. The joint resolution relative to Marshall O. Roberts' claim for the loss of the Star of the West was passed. The bill for the relief of district attorneys was discussed and laid over. The Judiciary Committee reported back the resolution of co-operation with the President's late special Message recommending assistance to States desiring to abolish slavery, with the recommendation that it pass. The bill for the reorganization of the Navy Department was passed. The bill to abolish slavery in the District of Columbia then came up, when Mr. Willey, of Virginia, spoke at length in opposition to it. At the conclusion of his remarks the Senate held an executive session and then adjourned.

In the House of Representatives, a report on the press censorship was made, the consideration of which was postponed till the first Monday in April. The Judiciary Committee reported back the several bills and resolutions in reference to confiscation of rebel property, with a recommendation adverse thereto. A debate took place over the request of a member of the committee to be allowed to make a minority report. Both reports were finally received, but not acted upon, and one bill was offered as a substitute for the other, when the matter was laid over and the Tax bill was taken up, which consumed the remainder of the session—the tax on sales and liquors being principally discussed, and several amendments being made, after which the subject was laid over, and the House adjourned.

MISCELLANEOUS NEWS.

In the Senate of our State Legislature yesterday, a bill was introduced to amend the law regulating the fees of the District Court clerks of this city. The Senate passed the bill providing for payment of the equipment expenses of the Twentieth Militia regiment, and chartering the Baptist Missionary Convention. The bill repealing the Church Property act occupied a great portion of the day's session. After a long debate it was ordered to a third reading. In the Assembly the Grinding Committee reported complete the bill correcting the Brooklyn assessment. The Supply bill was reported to the House from the Ways and Means Committee. The Public Defense bill again came up, and formed the subject of a long debate, which took up the remainder of the session.

The British ship Mohawk, Captain Fuller, arrived at this port yesterday from Bermuda, at which port it was recalled, she furnished the rebel steamer Nashville with coals, by which she was enabled to run the blockade successfully at Boufaut, N. C. It is to be hoped that this gross violation of neutrality may be visited on Captain Fuller, by a refusal on the part of our merchants to ship any goods by his vessel.

Less than a month ago the Richmond *Whig* said: "Southern soldiers ask no better odds than one to three of the Western and one to six of the Eastern Yankees, and some go so far as to say that with equal weapons they would not hesitate to encounter twenty times their number of the latter." We are a little curious to know what "some say" about the battles of Pea Ridge and Newbern.

Sterling Price, who was recently so gloriously whipped by General Curtis at Pea Ridge, in Arkansas, has been appointed a Major General in the ragged army belonging to Jeff. Davis & Co. When old Isham G. Harris, the itinerant executive of Tennessee, found that Nashville was speedily to become an unsafe place for his delicate carcass, he told the citizens in a speech that he was going, but that he would "soon return and spill the last drop of his blood in defence of the city"; and he emphasized the declaration, says the Nashville *Banner*, by knocking a hole in his hat with his fist. Isham has not yet spilled the first drop of his blood in defence of Nashville or any other place, and those who know him doubt whether he ever will, although he has assumed command of the State troops.

The vote of New Hampshire for Governor, compared with that of last year, is as follows:—

	1861.	1862.
Republican	32,146	35,467
Democrat	29,123	31,452
Union	1,927	324
Total vote	62,491	67,143

The Legislature will stand as follows:—

	1861.	1862.
Senate, House	19	19
Republicans	9	10
Democrats	3	2
Total	12	11

The second regiment of United States cavalry, some time previous to the breaking out of the rebellion, contained Albert Sydney Johnston as Colonel, Robert E. Lee as Lieutenant Colonel, William J. Hardee as Major, and Karl von Dorn, Edmund K. Smith and Nathan G. Evans as Captains. All these men are now generals in the rebel service.

The leaders of the newspaper abolition crusade against General McClellan are the Chicago *Tribune*, the Cincinnati *Gazette*, the New York *Post*, Philosopher Greeley and Fred. Douglas. The Potomac river being now free from obstruction they may soon expect the appearance of the "first shad."

A mass meeting of the journeyman seagr makers of this city was held last evening at the Metropolitan Rooms, Hester street, when it was resolved to send a delegation to Washington to-day, for the purpose of presenting a petition to Congress asking for an ad valorem tax on the raw material in place of the manufactured article. The Chairman stated that it had been intimated that the bosses were trying to get a heavy license on the manufacturer of seagr, which would prove very detrimental to the journeymen, and the delegation were instructed to oppose this as much as possible.

From the weekly statement of the Commissioners of Public Charities and Correction, which was presented yesterday, it appears that 1,645 persons were admitted to the institutions during the week ending on the 15th inst., making a total of 7,833 remaining there on that date, being a decrease of 16 on the preceding week.

The town hall, together with the entire block on which it stands, in Mexicoville, Oswego county, N. Y., was destroyed by fire on the 15th inst.

The ice in the North river around the head of navigation is melting very fast, and a few days of warm weather or rain will put it adrift. The Philadelphia line of steamers commenced to-day to run their line of steamers through the Delaware and Raritan Canal, which has been closed since the 20th December last. Wall street was quite dull yesterday, in the absence of news. Government securities were higher, but the general railway list was lower. Money continues easy at 6 1/2 per cent. Exchange was inactive yesterday, the asking rate of the bankers is 112. Gold was lower in the morning, but rallied in the afternoon, and at the close was bid at 101 1/2.

The Presidency—Fighting Fire in a Hurricane.

Once upon a time, in the ancient city of Damascus, during a terrible hurricane of wind, hail, rain, thunder and lightning, threatening the destruction of its hat, palace, temple and everything else in its track of human construction, a vagrant merchant of one idea, still abroad in the streets and faithful to his calling, in every bill of the tempest disturbed the astonished inhabitants at their prayers with his familiar cry, "In the name of the Prophet—figs!"

The lineal descendants of that peddler of figs, in the midst of a hurricane, are still at large, and still engaged in the calling of the head of their tribe. They are here in our very midst. They have superseded, with their peculiar cry, the "four cent man" of Nassau street; they are as sure to come out in season and out of season as the ninety-ninth edition of the *Evening Express*. The country is now racked and torn by a revolutionary hurricane without a parallel in the history of mankind. Our political parties and political creeds and platforms are flying about in the air like the leaves, dust and rubbish of the highway in a whirlwind; our political institutions are trembling and cracking to their very foundations, under the terrific force of this continental tornado; and yet, in every bill of this levelling tempest, the party peddlers of the New York *Tribune* and the *Times*, and others of their trade, are crying out, "In the name of Beelzebub and his prophets, look out for the next Presidency."

The "Little Villains" of the *Times* will have it that the *Tribune* is exceedingly fearful that General McClellan's military popularity may make him the Presidential candidate of the democracy in 1864; and the small beer patriots of the *Tribune*, while plausibly and indignantly protesting against the folly of any such accusation, are manifestly endeavoring to work up a sione of their own choosing for the head of the corner and for our next Presidential term. But in all such movements and party manipulations at this crisis, and in the midst of the surging billows of this gigantic rebellion, our innumerable Presidential peddlers are wasting their breath and their small wares after the manner of the fig vendor of Damascus.

Two years hence it will be time enough to begin to cast about for our candidates for the next Presidency; for within these two years we can tell the scope and the changes of this mighty political revolution which is upon us. The broken remnants of our late political parties, which are still drifting about as drifted wrecks of the ancient world upon the waves of the deluge, may be sunk and buried among its deposits before the year 1864. Within the last twelve months we have been hurried through the history of a hundred years of peace and party politics. Every month of this revolutionary epoch has been, and continues to be, a generation, measured according to the existing order of things. Before the advent of the year of our next Presidential election all the little schemes and candidates of the party cliques now intriguing for the succession may be as obsolete as anti-masonry and worthless as Confederate shipmasters. Men now the favorites of spoilsmen, plotting for the succession, may sink into oblivion or obscurity; and men from the shadows of obscurity may rise and advance to the heights of popularity within the momentous interval to our next Presidential campaign; and new parties and new principles, hardly dreamed of to-day, may become the parties and the elements in the reconstruction of the Union.

Of all the prominent public men of the day, in a civil or military station, it is probable that not one will come out of this sifting revolution so acceptable to the country at large, so available for the purposes of restoring harmony between the North and the South, as the sagacious, consistent, steady and conservative man now at the head of the government, Abraham Lincoln. In this crisis, and for the first time since the days of George Washington, the administration of the federal government has been lifted to Washington's platform of nationality; and upon this broad and comprehensive policy Mr. Lincoln, after carrying the country triumphantly through the fiery ordeal of this rebellion, may be found the most acceptable man for the work of restoring the full integrity of the Union.

At all events, our Presidential fig vendors must first dispose of this rebellion and the present administration before they can safely undertake their party soundings for the succession. Meanwhile, to all party hawkers of the Presidency, the country can only exclaim, "In the name of the Prophet—figs!"

GREELY'S POISONED CHALLENGE RETURNED TO HIS OWN LIPS.—Some months ago, in retort to the conservative policy of the President, "that horrible monster" Greeley opened an attack upon Mrs. Lincoln and other members of the President's family. Day after day the *Tribune* contained the most atrocious insults and slanderous insinuations against the wife of the President; and the tender and sewer of the *Tribune*—Garrison and Phillips' *Liberator*—republished and improved upon those attacks. Yet, while thus brutally insulting the President and his family, Greeley, Garrison, Phillips, Cheever and other abolitionists had the impudence to go to Washington and attempt to visit the White House and sport treason and disunion to the President himself. In Tuesday's *Herald* we collected a few of these slanders instigated by the *Tribune*, and showed Greeley as a glass, the foul complexion of his inner man. Now he writes and beats the air wildly, disgusted and alarmed at the sight of his own depravity. He cries out that the *Herald* assails Mrs. Lincoln, because it exposes the slanders he has forged against her; just as every criminal charges the law with causing crime, because it detects and punishes him. He seeks to deny and to prevaricate; but the fact is too well known that he instigated and suggested all the wicked lies which he now endeavors to put to the credit of his abolition co-laborers, as he once denied having written his "Onward to Richmond" article, in the *Tribune*. Greeley cannot thus escape the pin upon which he has impaled him. He is responsible for all the attacks upon the President and his family which have appeared in the editorial columns and in the outrageous and abusive Washington correspondence of the *Tribune*, and for those articles in the *Liberator* which he has instigated, and for which he has supplied the material. He only proves himself a coward as well as a slanderer when he attempts to evade the responsibility of his own dirty work.

THE DEVELOPING UNION SENTIMENT OF THE SOUTH.—The bloodless victories of the Dupont expedition at Fernandina and Jacksonville, in Florida, and the significant welcome given to the soldiers bearing "the old flag" at St. Augustine, together with the flight of the armed rebels from every point of the peninsula on the approach of our forces, and the virtual abandonment of the State by its secession Governor, conclusively establish the ascendancy of the Union sentiment among the people of Florida, and their gratitude for their deliverance from Jeff. Davis. His reign is ended in Florida, and by the will of the people thereof.

At Nashville, Tennessee, the Western headquarters of the rebellion since August last, down to its late evacuation by the rebel armed forces of Sidney Johnston, Pillow and Floyd, secession had been so rampant, absolute, well fed, boastful and defiant, that the citizens were at first confounded, incredulous and stupefied at the restoration of "the old flag" over the dome of their State House. But it appears that they are beginning to realize the fact, and that it is "a fixed fact," and that their minds are rapidly undergoing another revolution—a change back again to their old attachment for the Union. Andrew Johnson, who would have been torn to pieces by the populace of Nashville had he ventured to show himself among them two months ago, was received by them the other day in a public demonstration, as their Military Provisional Union Governor, with all the manifestations of a cordial welcome from a grateful community.

We have still another good sign from Tennessee, in the late Union speech of Hon. Baile Peyton at Gallatin, and in the petition revolved upon at his suggestion for the re-establishment of the United States Post Office there. The loss, by the rebellion, of the mail facilities which, under the "old Union," the people of our revolted States enjoyed, has been a sore deprivation to them, and the restoration of the United States mails will operate, as our armies advance, to bring into action a healthy Union sentiment in every town and hamlet throughout the rebellious South.

Equally significant of an irrepressible Union sentiment have been the satisfactory manifestations of the people of the great valley of Virginia with the advance of the troops of General Banks into their towns and villages. Winchester, the home of the rebel ambassador Mason, has ceased to be to him a place of refuge. At the outbreak of this rebellion, and while still recognized as holding a seat in the United States Senate, he issued an edict to the people of Winchester, declaring that an act of secession at Richmond was their supreme law, and that such as could not recognize it in this light "must leave the State," not that they ought to leave; but his precise order was in these very words: "They must leave the State." The loyal people thus addressed are now rejoicing over their deliverance from Mason and his despotic confederates; but where is Mason? An exile, under the mockery of an official rebel appointment, and an exile, as the penalty for his great offences as a leading conspirator in the work of this rebellion, he will doubtless remain to the end of his days.

Yet a few days longer of patient suffering, and the Union citizens of the Old Dominion, even of Richmond, and down to the dismal Swamp, will be relieved of the horrible nightmare of this rebellion; and then, we predict, there will be such a Union uprising throughout the South as will send Jeff. Davis and his confederate rulers and military chiefs and camp followers in hot haste for a safe passage across the Mexican frontier.

BEAUREGARD AND THE MISSISSIPPI VALLEY.—From the unexpected resistance made at Island No. 10, on the Mississippi river, it is suspected that Beauregard is there, and that this is the secret of the stubborn opposition to the gunboats of Commodore Foote, who is just as stubborn as Beauregard, and perhaps a little more so. Certain it is that the "Confederate General of the Mississippi Valley," as Beauregard announces himself to be, has taken the command in that region, and that he is preparing for a desperate resistance to our troops, whether they advance by land or by water. It will be seen that whereas in his former manifesto he wanted twelve months' men, he is now glad to get men who will enlist for ninety days. It is very evident that tremendous efforts are being made. For instance, Memphis is under martial law, by the authority of General Bragg, showing that the Union sentiment is dangerous there. The Governor of Louisiana has called upon that State for five thousand men, and the Governor of Mississippi for ten thousand from his State. Whether these Governors have called, as spirits have been called, from "the vasty deep," but would not come remains to be seen. The Governor of Mississippi says he has power to draft. Why does he not exert his power? Is it because the Union sentiment is strong, and that he has found secession a hard road to travel? The rebel papers are furious about the present condition of affairs. They have mainly contributed to the result, and they have no right to complain.

THE HON. BEN. WADE IS IN VERY GREAT DANGER.—The Hon. Ben. Wade is a Senator of the United States from the State of Ohio, and as the expiration of his present term draws nigh it appears that his re-election will be stoutly contested. We gather this impression from Greeley's insupportable anxiety on the subject. He is warning the country every day or two that "Ben. Wade is in danger." "Ben. Wade is in great danger." "Ben. Wade is in very great danger;" and Greeley is sorely distressed thereby, as if the failure of Ben. Wade to be re-elected will bring upon us the day of judgment, or at least an awful earthquake. Now, all that we know of Ben. Wade is that he is an honest, unsophisticated, unpretending sort of a man, zealous against this rebellion, and very earnest in his anti-slavery notions. But we are not aware that he has ever set the Ohio river on fire, or has ever raised much of a rum-pus in the Senate. Whatever, however, may be his public claims for a re-election, we admonish his friends who desire his success to put a stop to this tomfoolery of Greeley. The case of Fremont is very instructive. Greeley has been almost the ruin of Fremont, and he will be the death of Ben. Wade, unless we have an end of this nonsense of the *Tribune* concerning him. Let the members of the Ohio Legislature understand that Ben. Wade is the special pet of Greeley, and they will begin to think that he must be like Greeley—full of all sorts of impracticable kinks, crochets and crudities, and not at all the man to represent Ohio in the Senate of the United States. Ben. Wade is in very great danger in beginning the special pot of Greeley.

THE CHAMBER OF COMMERCE AND OUR HARBOR DEFENCES.—The creditable alacrity displayed by our merchants and others in taking into hand the subject of harbor defences accords well with the public feeling, and shows that we shall not be slow to profit by the lesson afforded us by the figs in Hampton Roads. The promptitude with which our insurance companies, banks and moneyed men testified their willingness to contribute to the common safety and the common good showed that they fully appreciated the importance of promptly adapting our defences to the resistance of iron-clad vessels, and this is only to be done by meeting iron-clad with iron-clad. It is therefore proposed by some to build another vessel answering to the description of the Monitor, but to be fitted with fifteen-inch, or, if necessary, still larger gun; while by others the construction of a fleet of small iron-clad boats, each carrying one gun, is suggested. But the most expeditious plan is that for the purchase of several swift and strongly built wooden steamers, to be converted into rams by the addition of sharp prows. Fifteen thousand dollars have been already subscribed to the defence fund; but as this is only a fraction of the amount required, the Chamber of Commerce will shortly make a call upon the public. At the meeting of the Chamber which was held on Tuesday to hear the report of the committee appointed at the previous meeting to proceed to Washington and consult with the War Department on the condition of our harbor defences, and the need in which we stand of their immediate increase, the matter was freely discussed. As the committee report that the government will not be prepared to attend to the matter for a considerable time to come, they advise, in common with the Secretary of War, that the citizens should subscribe the required half million of dollars. Similar action has been taken in Boston and Philadelphia.

EMPTYING THE STATE PRISONS.—From the fact that sixteen prisoners were released from the old Capitol prison on Tuesday, we may infer that the labors of the commission, consisting of General Dix and Judge Pierrepont, will speedily result in the release of all, or nearly all, the political prisoners still held by the War Department. This is just as it should be. There is no good purpose to be served by keeping men in custody who could do the country no harm if at liberty, and the government can well afford to be magnanimous. The most dangerous men are not to be found within the walls of Fort Warren, or any other federal stronghold, but at large in the office of the New York *Tribune*, where they have been since the commencement of the war, and still are, doing their best to throw difficulties in the way of the government, by their daily attacks upon the President and administration, and the officers of the army and navy, and especially General McClellan. If the government wants to get hold of a nest of traitors let it look to the editors of the *Tribune*. These ought to be arrested and fed on the diet upon which Greeley commenced life—namely, mush and milk, without any strong liquor—and for once well washed and clean shaven. The country would willingly bear the expense.

THE FIGHTING QUALITIES OF THE AMERICAN PEOPLE.—The fighting qualities of the American people, as developed in this war, are admirable. Our raw troops fight better than most of the veterans of Europe. The detailed accounts we published Thursday of the battle of Pea Ridge and the battle of Newbern demonstrate this. The Southern men fought well, but they have not the endurance of the men of the North, and even where they have the advantage of cannon, fortifications, and superior position and numbers, as at Newbern and Pea Ridge, they cannot conquer the stubborn material of which the Union troops are made. In all the recent fights the inferiority of their small arms has been made manifest, and those are decisive in the hand-to-hand struggle. There is another reason why the Southern men do not fight with the same tenacity in this war as the Northern. It is the cause, or rather want of cause, for which they are battling. The Northern men felt very reluctant to begin the fight. They only entered upon it as a matter of duty—to preserve the integrity of the Union founded by Washington and his compatriots. To break up that Union is the object of the rebellion, and with such a cause it is impossible they could succeed. In the Mexican war, when they marched under the flag of the Union, their prowess was fully equal to that of the Northern men at whose side they fought. It is the cause which makes all the difference.

POLICEMEN AND REVOLVERS.—On Tuesday morning a man who had been arrested on a trivial offence was shot dead while attempting to escape from a policeman in Brooklyn. Human life is uncertain enough without being left at the caprice of policemen. We therefore maintain that the practice of the police carrying revolvers ought to be discontinued. The tendency of arming such men with such weapons is to make them despotic and merciless, and to expose every inebriate who may fall into their clutches, and act without due respect and circumspection, to the punishment of death. Of course a story can always be made up to justify the officer; but long experience has led European communities to abolish the use of firearms by policemen, and to consider that it is not to the public welfare to trust them with the power of life or death over an individual. We have outrages enough without making the men who are paid to protect us the instruments of further mischief, and it will be a reproach to the community if we license the police to commit murder by allowing them to carry revolvers.

ACTIVITY IN BUSINESS.—The uninterrupted succession of recent Union victories, each in itself almost a deadly blow to the rebellion, and the news from Europe of the effect of those victories at the other side of the Atlantic, have given such an extraordinary impetus to business that everything is beginning to look like old times. This revival is manifested in a great variety of forms, but in none more than in the increased number of business advertisements in the newspapers. As the readers will observe, the *Herald* is crowded with them; so much so that we have to request those who seek the benefit of publication in our columns to hand in their advertisements at an early hour, in order that they may appear under their proper head, where the reader will be most likely to look for them. There is no better test of business prosperity than the advertising columns of the New York *Herald*; and the present revival is but the precursor of the restoration of peace and the Union, and the complete re-establishment of the trade and commerce of the whole country, from the St. Lawrence and the lakes to the Gulf of Mexico, and from the Atlantic to the Pacific Ocean.

THE GREATEST ROBBERY OF THE DAY.—In the State prisons of New York there are about five hundred criminals incarcerated for thefts, larcenies and burglaries, and the aggregate amount of the stealings of these second-rate amounts, probably, to one hundred thousand dollars. These robbers are justly imprisoned; but what, then, should be the fate of those members of the Legislature and the lobby who are now deliberately conniving together to rob this over taxed city of a Broadway Railroad franchise worth about five or six millions of dollars? The property owners of this city and their tenants are obliged to pay twelve millions of dollars a year for taxes, and yet the Legislature proposes to give away, for nothing, to a parcel of unknown persons, picked up in out-of-the-way holes and corners of the State, a valuable franchise belonging to the people of New York, and capable, in proper hands, of reducing our taxes at least a million of dollars a year. This is the greatest outrage of legislation and the greatest robbery of the age. The Legislature has no more moral right to deprive the city of this franchise than has a burglar to rob a house. Yet, urged on by an audacious lobby, the members of the Legislature seem disposed to pass the Broadway Railroad bill. If they do, in what respect are they less guilty, morally, than the gallow's birds who fill our prisons now?

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SPRING FASHIONS.

Opening Day in the Metropolitan.

This season the opening comes in the Metropolitan, instead of in one compact mass, as formerly. Some establishments opened yesterday, some will open to-morrow, and others this day week. This independent system has been growing in favor of late, and has its advantages. Indeed, as openings are every season increasing in number, some change was not only desirable but necessary, for as much of endurance or enthusiasm could enable the fair votaries of fashion to undergo the fatigue of inspecting one tithe of these displays. Even if they limited themselves to Broadway the task would be Herculean, if it were performed in a thorough conscientious manner. Of course if it were done in a superficial way—if ladies hurried into an establishment, glanced around them and hurried out again, bringing away but an indistinct idea of location, silks, flowers, ribbons and straw blighted together in a confused confusion, it could be done; but little labor, little profit holds good here, as well as in other cases, and at the close of an opening day, so passed, or we should say, so spent, the fashion hunter would be as incapable of comparing the styles of different establishments or appreciating their respective merits as the house hunter who looked only at the bills would be to discriminate between one house and another. Scattered openings have not this objection; they give time for close examination, and to the mode of superior taste this is an incalculable advantage for the minute elegancies of detail, the harmony of parts and the perfection of finish, which is the triumph of the modern art, may be unnoticed in a usual glance, but are always sure to make their mark when there is time and opportunity for close scrutiny. In this way the scattered openings may prove a benefit.

For many seasons past "opening day" has been unfavorable for outdoor exercise, but the sort of day that would tempt to the utmost the devotion of the fair Manhattanites to the Protean deity that presides over the fashions. Yesterday opened in the usual style—well sidewalks and towering skies held out poor inducements to pedestrians; but it cleared up in the forenoon, and continued dull and dry throughout the day. The exhibition rooms were well patronized, the goods thoroughly displayed, and the visitors were free from that absorbed air that says as plainly as words could say, "There is a great deal of sight-seeing to be done and very little time to do it in."

In shape the bonnets have changed very little; they are closer at the side and higher in the front, and the ope is smaller, but in essentials they are the same as last season. As the shape precludes the possibility of side trimming, the lace and flowers that beautify the inside are disposed in flowery bandeaux across the forehead, or inclosed a little to the one side. They are very generally finished off with an edge of lace, black or white, and sometimes a combination of both. In some cases the crowns are transparent, and a transparent edge runs around the front, imparting an air of lightness to the fresh spring bonnet that speaks strongly of coming summer. Strapped hats are in high favor, and deserve to be, for nothing can be prettier or more simple than this style, which neither requires nor will allow much trimming. However, that our readers may have a clearer idea of the incoming styles, we purpose to give a description in detail of a few of the more prominent specimens next week, when all our military establishments will have opened their treasures for the inspection of the public or the favored few, as the case may be.

The mantilla stores have not brought out their summer styles yet, but their spring stock is varied and abundant. Long roundabout cloaks, reaching almost to the edge of the skirt, bright looking plaid and striped non-descripts, mantles of shepherd's plaid, short, loose basques of black silk or drab cloth, the first article front edge with a pointed neck and trimmed round the skirt with deep frill, the second close up to the front and finished with a little collar bound with blue or cherry colored silk. This last style is very suitable for the spring and early summer, and it will probably be reproduced in lighter materials for the midsummer. Very different from the cloaks worn at the corresponding period of last year, which girdled the dresses in length, this new candidate for public favor does not come far below the waist, and permits the whole expanse of the skirt to be visible. It is easily made, takes little material, is pretty in itself, and we doubt not will be popular for a time. It will not suit every figure; but what garment devised by man or woman ever did? In dress goods we have the usual varieties—moire antiques, poplins, watered silks, tulle, reps and cordes. The last is growing in favor, and will be very much worn this season. Of course the most delicate are still to be seen, reminding us that spring's days are not all warm, and that summer and midsummer dresses are yet some weeks ahead of us. The lighter fabrics, suitable for July weather, are not generally on exhibition, but they will soon be. They consist of organdies, light silks, crepes, grenadines, poplins and foundries. Dresses are very prettily trimmed. The prevailing fashion is in *la Grece*; and the trimming is not confined to any one part of the dress, but is used on skirt, sleeve and corsege with lavish disregard of expense. The skirts are very full and very long, forming a demi-train, which may look very graceful in a ball room, but very decidedly the reverse on the sidewalk. The gown skirt is still worn, though not in such favor as heretofore, and fashions are universal. They are arranged in many ways. The *la Grece* dress, with a heading of small ones, or an infinite number of tiny flounces that ought rather to be called frills, sometimes placed straight round the skirt and sometimes arranged in festoons. The latter is the very elegant style, and has the unspeakable advantage of being much more expensive. Zouave jackets will be very fashionable, and are generally becoming. They may be made of the same color as the skirt, or of a pretty contrasting color, which will look much better. It is a very convenient style for warm weather, and with a handsome tucked or embroidered waist looks cool and summery.

POST OFFICE MATTERS.—OPENING OFFICES AT THE SOUTH.—We learn at the Post Office that, so far, Nashville, Clarksville and Dover are the only offices opened in Tennessee. Others will be opened as the Union forces go South, and due notice will be given of their establishment.

WINTER GARDEN.—Miss Fanny Brown takes her first bow at this hour to-night. In the case of an actress so personally attractive and so deservedly popular it is scarcely necessary for us to recommend that young New York should be on hand.

ACADEMY OF MUSIC.—"Martha" will be given this evening, with Miss Kellogg in the principal part. In the new lot scene there will be introduced ballet-dancers, in which the beautiful Cubas and Senor Ximenes will appear.

THE CANADIAN PARLIAMENT.

Parliament opened at three o'clock A. M. Sir Alfred McLean was elected Speaker of the Legislative Council, and Mr. Tupper Ministerial Speaker of the Assembly.